

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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LAFAYETTE ROAD BRIDGE OVER EAGLE CREEK REOPENS

All lanes of traffic are open and unrestricted; ToxDrop location to open soon

INDIANAPOLIS – Northwest side residents and commuters can enjoy a smoother route to work and home thanks to the replacement of the Lafayette Road Bridge over Eagle Creek. After being closed for the construction and total replacement of the concrete bridge, Lafayette Road from 71st to 79th streets is now open to accommodate the estimated 8,000 vehicles that travel the thoroughfare daily.

“The structural support of this bridge was deteriorating and necessitated a complete replacement,” said Department of Public Works Director David Sherman. “The average life span of a bridge is about 50 years and the Lafayette Road Bridge was built in the 1920s and widened to four lanes in 1935.”

Work began on the three-span, prestressed concrete beam bridge in March 2009 and included the construction of a new bridge deck, beams and rails. Texas classic rails were constructed, which helped improve the appearance of the bridge railing. The project also included the resurfacing of the bridge and includes a bike lane that connects to Eagle Creek Park.

“The city’s infrastructure is aging and in need of repair,” Sherman said. “We recognize the importance of bridges as a part of our overall infrastructure maintenance, but we’re facing an estimated need of \$291 million to replace or rehabilitate our aging bridges. As a result, we’re working to prioritize our bridge work.”

In addition to the Lafayette Road Bridge, the city plans to replace or reconstruct 10 bridge structures, totaling more than \$18 million in construction costs from 2009 through 2013.

Eighty percent of the \$2.3 million Lafayette Road Bridge over Eagle Creek costs was federally funded. The other 20 percent was matched with local dollars.

The ToxDrop location at the Traders Point Collection Facility has been temporarily closed for construction on this project and is scheduled to reopen in early December.

For more information on the ToxDrop Program, please visit www.sustainindy.org/toxdrop.cfm.

For more information on the Indy BikeWays Plan, please visit www.sustainindy.org/bikeways.cfm.

Mayor Ballard launched SustainIndy and created the Office of Sustainability in October of 2008. Both represent an innovative enterprise aimed at delivering long-term cost savings to the city, building the local economy, improving our quality of life and enhancing our environmental and public health. Its efforts are designed to aggressively move Indianapolis forward in making it one of the most sustainable cities in the Midwest. For more information, visit www.sustainindy.org.

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